

1 EILEEN M. DECKER
United States Attorney
2 LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON
Assistant United States Attorney
3 Chief, Criminal Division
LIZABETH A. RHODES (Cal. Bar No. 155299)
4 Assistant United States Attorneys
Public Corruption & Civil Rights Section
5 1500 United States Courthouse
312 North Spring Street
6 Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 894-3541
7 Facsimile: (213) 894-6436
E-mail: Lizabeth.rhodes@usdoj.gov
8

9 Attorneys for Plaintiff
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
10

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
14 Plaintiff,
15 v.
16 JOOHOON DAVID LEE,
17 Defendant.
18

No. CR 15-237-MWF

PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
JOOHOON DAVID LEE

19
20 1. This constitutes the plea agreement between JOOHOON DAVID
21 LEE ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the
22 Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned
23 case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any
24 other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement,
25 administrative, or regulatory authorities.

26 DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

27 2. Defendant agrees to:
28

1 a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and
2 provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to count one of the
3 indictment in United States v. Joohoon David Lee, CR No. 15-237-MWF,
4 which charges defendant with bribery, in violation of 18 U.S.C.
5 § 201(b)(2)(A).

6 b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

7 c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained
8 in this agreement.

9 d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered
10 for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey
11 any other ongoing court order in this matter.

12 e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be
13 excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing
14 Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not
15 within the scope of this agreement.

16 f. Be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the
17 United States Probation Office, and the Court.

18 g. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the
19 time of sentencing unless defendant lacks the ability to pay and
20 prior to sentencing submits a completed financial statement on a form
21 to be provided by the USAO.

22 THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

23 3. The USAO agrees to:

24 a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

25 b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained
26 in this agreement.

27 c. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant
28 demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to

1 and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction
2 in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to
3 U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an
4 additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

5 NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

6 4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of
7 the crime charged in count one, that is, bribery, in violation of
8 Title 18 United States Code § 201(b)(2)(A), the following must be
9 true:

10 a. Defendant was a public official; and

11 b. Defendant solicited, received, agreed to receive
12 something of value in return for being influenced in the performance
13 of an official act, being influenced to commit or allow a fraud on
14 the United States, or being persuaded to do or not to do an act in
15 violation of defendant's official duty; and

16 c. Defendant acted corruptly, that is, intending to be
17 influenced in the performance of an official act or to commit or
18 allow a fraud on the United States or to do or to omit to do an act
19 in violation of the defendant's official duty.

20 PENALTIES

21 5. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence
22 that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States
23 Code, Section 201(b)(2)(A), is: 15 years imprisonment; a three-year
24 period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross
25 gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest;
26 and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

27 6. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period
28 of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject

1 to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that
2 if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised
3 release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part
4 of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the
5 offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could
6 result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than
7 the statutory maximum stated above.

8 7. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant
9 may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic
10 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm,
11 the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.
12 Defendant understands that once the court accepts defendant's guilty
13 plea, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm
14 or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this
15 case may also subject defendant to various other collateral
16 consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation,
17 parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or
18 revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that
19 unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to
20 withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

21 8. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United
22 States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject
23 defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under
24 some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial
25 of admission to the United States in the future. The court cannot,
26 and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant
27 fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction
28 in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration

1 consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty
2 plea.

3 FACTUAL BASIS

4 9. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the
5 offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant
6 and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree
7 that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of
8 guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the
9 Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 11 below but is
10 not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the
11 underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that
12 relate to that conduct.

13 In March, 2012, defendant Lee, then an ICE Special
14 Agent in Los Angeles, California, and part of the Human
15 Trafficking unit, interviewed JS, a woman who claimed to be
16 entering the United States to be a sex slave for HS, a
17 Korean business man. About two months later, defendant
18 Lee, entered a lookout for HS into a law-enforcement
19 database.

20 About a year after JS first entered the United States,
21 defendant Lee met with HS's attorney and told the attorney
22 that if HS would pay for his trip, defendant Lee could fly
23 to Korea, interview HS and thereafter submit a favorable
24 report on HS's behalf. HS agreed and caused \$3,000 in cash
25 to be given to defendant Lee. Within a day of receiving
26 the cash, defendant Lee deposited \$1,000 in cash into his
27 bank account. Within two days, defendant Lee purchased a
28 plane ticket to Korea.

1 Approximately ten days later, defendant Lee traveled
2 from Los Angeles to Seoul. HS then paid for defendant
3 Lee's hotel and entertainment expenses while in Korea. One
4 night, while being entertained by HS, defendant Lee asked
5 HS for a large sum of money to make any immigration issue
6 go away. While HS did not give Lee the full amount
7 requested, he did give Lee between \$6,000 and \$7,000. When
8 defendant Lee returned to the United States, defendant Lee
9 deposited \$4,000 cash into his personal checking account.

10 The next month, defendant Lee entered wrote a report
11 relating to the HS investigation. It said "SUBJECT WAS
12 SUSPECTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. NO EVIDENCE FOUND AND
13 VICTIM STATEMENT CONTRADICTS. CASE CLOSED. NO FURTHER
14 ACTION REQUIRED."

15 SENTENCING FACTORS

16 10. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's
17 sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing
18 Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures
19 under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set
20 forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the
21 Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have
22 any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated
23 Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the
24 Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will
25 be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds
26 appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of
27 conviction.
28

1 11. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable
2 Sentencing Guidelines factors:

3 Base Offense Level: 14 U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(a)(1)

4 Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional
5 specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under
6 the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate.

7 12. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to
8 defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.

9 13. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a
10 sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing
11 Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1),
12 (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

13 WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

14 14. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant
15 gives up the following rights:

16 a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.

17 b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.

18 c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if
19 necessary have the court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant
20 understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be
21 represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the court appoint
22 counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.

23 d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the
24 burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty
25 beyond a reasonable doubt.

26 e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses
27 against defendant.

1 f. The right to testify and to present evidence in
2 opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the
3 attendance of witnesses to testify.

4 g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if
5 defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that
6 choice not be used against defendant.

7 h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses,
8 Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial
9 motions that have been filed or could be filed.

10 WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

11 15. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal
12 based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea were involuntary, by
13 pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to
14 appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is
15 pleading guilty.

16 LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

17 16. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total
18 term of imprisonment on all counts of conviction of no more than 30
19 months, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following:
20 (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any
21 portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the
22 Court; (c) the fine imposed by the court, provided it is within the
23 statutory maximum; (d) the term of probation or supervised release
24 imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum;
25 and (e) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised
26 release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in General
27 Orders 318, 01-05, and/or 05-02 of this Court; the drug testing
28

1 conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the
2 alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

3 17. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the
4 sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and
5 (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of no less than 24
6 months, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the
7 sentence.

8 RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

9 18. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea
10 pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds
11 in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a
12 claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was
13 involuntary, then the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations
14 under this agreement.

15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

16 19. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of
17 all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an
18 Assistant United States Attorney.

19 BREACH OF AGREEMENT

20 20. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the
21 signature of this agreement and execution of all required
22 certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant
23 United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of
24 defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO
25 may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations
26 are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the
27 USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have
28 cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing.

1 If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds
2 such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously
3 entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not
4 be able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the USAO will be
5 relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

6 COURT AND PROBATION OFFICE NOT PARTIES

7 21. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States
8 Probation Office are not parties to this agreement and need not
9 accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties'
10 agreements to facts or sentencing factors.

11 22. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are
12 free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information
13 to the United States Probation Office and the Court, (b) correct any
14 and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing
15 Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue
16 on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing
17 Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not
18 error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the
19 calculations in paragraph 11 are consistent with the facts of this
20 case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to
21 submit full and complete factual information to the United States
22 Probation Office and the Court, even if that factual information may
23 be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement,
24 this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations
25 not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

26 23. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any
27 sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions
28 different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the

1 maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason,
2 withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to
3 fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant
4 understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney,
5 or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding
6 the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within
7 the statutory maximum.

8 NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

9 24. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein,
10 there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO
11 and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional
12 promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a
13 writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

14 ///

15 ///

16 ///

17 ///

18 ///

19 ///

20 ///

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

1 PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

2 25. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered
3 part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the
4 entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.


5 AGREED AND ACCEPTED

6 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
7 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
8 CALIFORNIA

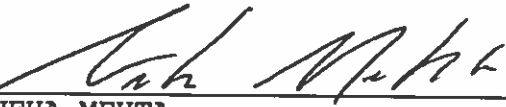
8 EILEEN M. DECKER
9 United States Attorney

10 
11 ELIZABETH A. RHODES
12 Assistant United States Attorney

12.4.15
Date

13 
14 JOOHOON DAVID LEE
15 Defendant

12-4-15.
Date

16 
17 NEHA MEHTA
18 Attorney for Defendant
19 JOOHOON DAVID LEE

12/4/15
Date

20 CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

21 I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough
22 time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and
23 thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand
24 the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms.
25 I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has
26 advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be
27 filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or
28 at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a),
of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences
of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or

1 representations of any kind have been made to me other than those
2 contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in
3 any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the
4 representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading
5 guilty because I am guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage
6 of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other
7 reason.

8 JooHoon Lee
9 JOOHOON DAVID LEE
Defendant

12-4-15.
Date

10 CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

11 I am JOOHOON DAVID LEE's attorney. I have carefully and
12 thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client.
13 Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible
14 pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might
15 be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors
16 set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines
17 provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement.
18 To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any
19 kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this
20 agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to
21 enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this
22 agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set
23 forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of
24 a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.

25 NeHa Mehta
26 NEHA MEHTA
Attorney for Defendant
27 JOOHOON DAVID LEE
28

12/4/15
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, **SUSAN M. CRUZ**, declare:

That I am a citizen of the United States and resident or employed in Los Angeles County, California; that my business address is the Office of United States Attorney, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012; that I am over the age of eighteen years, and am not a party to the above-entitled action;

That I am employed by the United States Attorney for the Central District of California who is a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, at whose direction I served a copy of:

PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT JOOHOON DAVID LEE

service was:

☒ Placed in a closed envelope, for collection and interoffice delivery addressed as follows:

☐ Placed in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing via United States Mail, addressed as follows:

Office of the Federal Public Defender
321 East Second Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
ATTN: Neha Mehta, DFPD

This Certificate is executed on **December 4, 2015**, at Los Angeles, California.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

/S/
SUSAN M. CRUZ